

Administrative Notice DMMA-05-2008

TO: All DMMA Staff

DATE: October 17, 2008

SUBJECT: SSI-Related Income Limits for Long Term Care Medical Assistance

BACKGROUND

The Social Security Administration will implement the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective January 1, 2009. The amount of the COLA is based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and is derived from changes in the Consumer Price Index. The COLA for 2009 is 5.8 percent.

DISCUSSION

The income standards for Long Term Care Medicaid are based on the SSI Federal Payment Standard. The SSI Federal Payment Standard for 2009 is:

\$674.00 for an individual \$1,011.00 for a couple

The income standard for the 30-day Acute Care Hospital Program is equal to the SSI standard.

The income standard for all other Long Term Care Programs and the Children's Community Alternative Disability program is equal to 250% of the SSI standard. Effective January 1, 2009 the new income standard for these programs are as follows:

\$1,685.00 for an individual \$2,528.00 for a couple

Each individual will have \$20.00 of his or her available income disregarded in order to determine eligibility. There is no \$20.00 disregard for "needs" based income such as VA pensions. There is only one \$20.00 disregard from the total combined income for a couple. The new income standards with the \$20.00 disregard added in are:

\$1,705.00 for an individual \$2,548.00 for a couple

There is no change in the resource limit.

The 2009 Medicare premiums are as follows:

Part A \$443.00 Part B \$96.40

(For individuals earning less than \$85,000 annually)

ACTION REQUIRED

DCIS II will be updated with the new income standards.

DIRECT INQUIRIES TO

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Signed on October 23, 2007
HARRY B. HILL, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF MEDICAID &
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE